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REMARKS

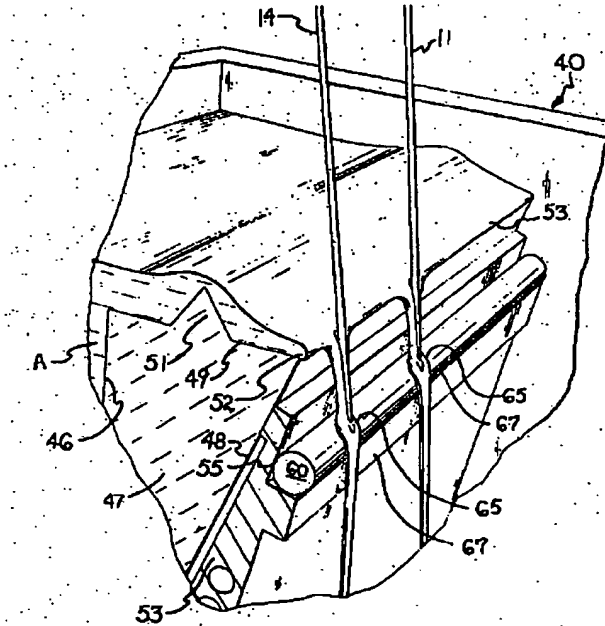
Claims 1-20 are again rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gott GB 2,041,028 in view of Garick, U.S. Patent No. 3,758,329, and further in view of Shambelan, U.S. Patent No. 3,531,363. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reason; the cited prior art simply does not teach or suggest the presently claimed invention.

First, GB '028 teaches an even, continuous coating of adhesive on one side of parallel yarns, including the valleys between the yarns, as follows (from Page 2, Col. 1):

We have found that direct or spreader application of adhesive is the most successful way to operate the method of the invention:
45 application of adhesive via, e.g., a lick roller, does not provide sufficient adhesive adequately to fill the 'valleys' between adjacent yarns, and a coherent web is not produced. The outlet of the trough 22 is adjusted to maintain an
50 accumulation or 'reservoir' of adhesive on the yarns 10 on top of the roller 16, which is then continuously spread over the whole sheet of yarns by the roller 18. The spacing or nip between the rollers 16 and 18 is adjustable to obtain the
55 optimum clearance for any particular application. By this means, each yarn, and the valleys between the yarns, receive adequate adhesive to give an even, continuous coat.

Second, the '329 patent teaches coating each filament described therein, with a coating of resin that covers all of the filament, as illustrated in Figure 2, reproduced here:

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Third, the '363 patent teaches the use of discontinuous adhesive only with regard to all the intersections of warp-direction yarns with weft-direction yarns, as set forth below (from Col. 1 & 2):

The products of the present invention are nonwoven fabrics comprising at least 3 layers of warp-like arrays of yarns and/or filaments, hereinafter referred to simply as strands, arranged so that the strands of adjacent layers intersect at an angle, while the strands of selected non-adjacent layers (for example, the strands of the top and bottom layers of the fabric) are parallel and in super-imposed relationship with respect to one another, the strands in the selected layers being united to one another only in the regions where these strands overlie one another, i.e., in the spaces between crossing strands of inter-

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mediate layers. Selection of the layers, which are to be in register and united between intersections in the fabric, is arbitrary with the exception that at least those layers are chosen which, when bonded, will hold all the remaining layers together in the fabric. For a simple 3-layered assembly, the selected layers must be the top and bottom layers. For other assemblies having an odd number of total layers, at least the top and bottom layers must be selected. For assemblies having many layers, various arrangements are possible as may be seen in the examples. Since the strands of the nonwoven fabric are not rigidly united to one another at their intersections, individual strands of the fabric are free to slide along one another when the fabric is pulled in the bias direction. Furthermore, the nonwoven fabric exhibits the same trellis-like behavior which is responsible for the drape and conformability of woven fabrics, when subjected to a shearing stress in the plane of the fabric. Preferably the strands of adjacent layers intersect at a 90° angle to provide an appearance like that of woven fabric.

Clearly, nothing in the cited art, either considered individually, or in any permitted combination, either teaches or suggests the invention defined by the three amended independent claims herein – Claims 1, 2 and 11:

1. A non-woven fabric wherein the fabric consists essentially of substantially parallel warp-direction yarns without any weft-direction yarns, said warp-direction yarns being supported and bonded on only one side by an adhesive coating, said adhesive coating being non-continuous and having a thickness of from about 0.25 mil to about 1 mil.

2. A non-woven fabric wherein the fabric consists essentially of substantially parallel warp-direction yarns without any weft-direction yarns, said warp-direction yarns being supported and bonded on only one side by an adhesive coating, said adhesive being non-continuous and having been coated on one side of said fibers at a level of from about 5 weight percent to about 25 weight percent, based upon the weight of the fabric.

11. A method of forming a non-woven fibrous web, said method comprising the steps of:

a. forming a substantially parallel array of yarns consisting essentially of

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substantially parallel warp-direction yarns without any weft-direction yarns, said array of yarns having two sides, a top side and a bottom side;
b. contacting only one side of said parallel array of yarns with a thin non-continuous coating of wet or molten adhesive; and
c. drying the wet or molten adhesive coating to form a cohesive web of non-woven parallel yarns.

Each of these claims, as well as the claims that depend therefrom, defines an invention having substantially parallel warp-direction yarns, without any weft-direction yarns, wherein the yarns are supported and bonded on only one side thereof, by a non-continuous adhesive coating. The cited art neither teaches nor suggests such an invention because:

- (1) The GB patent teaches a continuous coating of adhesive – and the claimed coating is non-continuous;
- (2) The '329 patent teaches coating the filaments or yarns on all sides – and the claimed coating is non-continuous and only on one-side; and
- (3) The '363 patent teaches the bonding of at least three layers of overlapping warp and weft yarns – and the claimed invention has one layer and no weft yarns.

Clearly the proposed combination of these three references does not teach, suggest or otherwise disclose the presently claimed invention. Assuming that hindsight is not employed in combining the teachings of these references, one should obtain a product with three warp/weft layers (from '363), wherein yarns are coated (at least at the intersections) on all sides with resin (from '329) and the adhesive coatings between layers remains a continuous film (from GB). That is what the combined teachings would provide – and that is clearly not the presently claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103(a) rejection of Claims 1-20 is respectfully requested.